

UNITED NATIONS



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POSTAL ADDRESS: ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
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2 July 1980

REFERENCE

Dear Mr. Azzam,

In the absence of the Secretary-General, who is abroad on official travel, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13 June 1980, drawing his attention to the conflict in the Horn of Africa. Your comments on the current crisis as it relates to the plight of the Eritrean people, and reports of the use of lethal nerve gases, have been noted.

As you have pointed out, the United Nations has a long standing concern for the protection of Human Rights and for allegations of violations of Human Rights wherever they may occur. While these matters are obviously very sensitive, in that they also concern the domestic jurisdiction of sovereign states, we try to be as helpful as possible in this area on a humanitarian basis.

In view of the serious nature of the reports which you have described, we are attempting to ascertain the facts in this matter. We are also forwarding copies of your letter to the Division of Human Rights at Geneva, and to the Organisation of African Unity.

You may be assured that the Secretary-General will continue to concern himself closely with these matters and speak out against flagrant violations of fundamental Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Fitzpatrick", is written over a light-colored background.

Donald E. Fitzpatrick
Special Assistant
Political and Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Salem Azzam
Secretary-General
Islamic Council of Europe
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